



MARIAN LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

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Marian Library Newsletter (new series) No. 3

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Dear Friends and Benefactors:

Featured in this issue of the NEWSLETTER is a report on some of the many fascinating books that Bro. Fackovec discovered in Europe last summer. We also include details about other developments and end with a word of thanks for the help we have received from various people.

TEN WEEKS IN EUROPE'S BOOKMARTS brought together a veritable boatload of treasures for the library: books old and new, common and rare, battered and beautiful. The first area to be enriched by Brother's travels was our collection on the iconography of the Eastern Churches. Nearly 100 new works, written in some 7 languages, were purchased to aid further exploration in this field of growing importance. Our holdings in bibliographical studies were also augmented considerably, if not so lavishly. Here the most significant addition by far was the monumental Knihopis Ceskych a Slovenskych Tisku, a thirteen-volume bibliography of books printed in Czechoslovakia from 1468 to 1800. Of similar importance, for our manuscript studies, was the acquisition of Millar's La miniature anglaise du Xe au XIIIe siècle.

BOOKS PRINTED CENTURIES AGO afford us a special gratification, perhaps chiefly because of the many historical associations they bring to mind. Let us consider first one of the old books purchased in England: the 1703 edition of the Latin works by Bishop George Bull (1634-1710). The tall, beautifully printed folio contains this Anglican's learned defense of the Nicene Creed. This important work with its sequel, says the DNB, won for the author the unfeigned congratulations of the whole clergy of France, chief among whom was the great Bossuet. One volume then evokes more than one age of religious controversy and withal the memory of many great theologians. It is an example of how our older books help us to mark the stages in the development of ideas.

HOLLAND offered the two oldest books acquired on this trip, witnesses to the Marian heritage of the early 16th century. The first is Johannes Henlin's commentary on the Salve Regina, printed at Nuremberg in 1502 [Panzer VII, p. 441-2]. Although the title page identifies the author as a Dominican, his name is not in the Quétif-Echard bibliography. The other book is our first copy of an ancient Missal, printed at Venice in 1526 by Luke Anthony Giunta, who specialized in producing liturgical works [Weale-Bohatta 1058, Sander 4827]. Somewhat larger than a modern "layman's" Missal, the volume with its 14 full-page cuts and countless initials decorated with leaf patterns, portraits, and Gospel scenes is a fair example of early Venetian printing. It contains a few texts that were not used after Pius V's liturgical reforms of 1570. One example, cited for our liturgically oriented readers, is the Introit for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception: "Go forth, Ye Daughters of Sion, and see your Queen, whom the morning star doth praise, whose beauty the

sun and moon admire, and [in whom] the sons of God rejoice."

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL provided a good supply of early books. The oldest, printed in 1588 at Alcala de Henares, is a commentary on the Song of Songs by the Dominican exegete Jerome Almonazir (d. 1604). The work has been praised as "learned and profound ..., based not only on the Fathers, but also on a perfect knowledge of Greek and Hebrew." Spanish authors have produced innumerable treatises, sermons, poems, and devotional works honoring the Immaculate Conception. The most interesting of such books found last summer was Felipe Bernal's Sentencia de Sancto Thomas en favor de la Inmaculada Concepcion, printed at Burgos in 1623 [Palau 28138]. Goovaerts, the Norbertine bibliographer, says the volume is very rare. From a period when Spain's Philip IV was trying to get the Immaculate Conception declared a dogma of faith, we obtained a collection of sermons centered on this mystery published at Salamanca in 1665 under the title Palestra sagrada. The first title page and a frontispiece are signed by Marcus Orozco, a priest who was also an engraver. Several Lisbon dealers supplied additions to our growing collection of 17th-century Portuguese sermons. Let us mention only the Santoral of 1638 by the Capuchin Christovao de Lisboa, one of the great pulpit orators of his day. A man with a reputation for holiness, he also served as a missionary in Brazil, where he fought strenuously against enslavement of the Indian.

ITALY yielded comparatively few older books. The only early imprint bought in Rome was by the Jesuit Gasparo Loarte (d. 1578), a book of rosary meditations dated Rome, 1573. Rather crudely executed engravings illustrate the 15 mysteries. Several translations were made of this small work, and an edition was printed as late as 1843. Our copy is an interesting addition to our other 16th-century illustrated Rosary manuals [De Backer-Sommervogel IV, 1880]. Some Milanese dealers had extremely rare books to sell, but the prices asked made their purchase unthinkable. In one shop, Brother did, however, acquire a Book of Hours printed at Lyons by Roville in 1560 [Bohatta 1268, Lacombe 515]. What made this edition desirable were the illustrations: the more than 20 fantastic designs used for the page borders and the 12 full-page cuts with their strangely elongated figures dressed in classical Roman garb. It was also in Milan that Brother found the first two parts of the Mundus Marianus by the Croation Jesuit Lawrence Chrysogonus (1590-1650). The first volume, printed in Vienna in 1646, deals with Mary and the Trinity. The second, dated Padua 1651, has sections on Mary and the Angels, as well as on astronomical symbolism, and even on the Marian symbolism of figures from classical mythology, topics quite typical of the Baroque era. The third part of this curious example of emblem literature has been in the library for some ten years.

MUNICH supplied mostly newer books. Among the older ones was a volume in which were bound together over a dozen pamphlets on the Scapular, printed in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. One Munich dealer wrote letters of introduction to agents in Prague and Bratislava. This key made it possible to purchase in Czechoslovakia over 100 works, ranging from the 17th through the 20th centuries, most of them printed in central and eastern Europe, an area not yet well represented in our holdings. The earliest is a small book of prayers by the Cistercian Augustine Dobrowolski, Paradisus Eucharisticus in Paradiso Mariano, printed at Lublin in 1652. This is now our oldest Polish imprint. Two scholarly works that open new doors for us are Antonin Lenz's study on the Mariology of St. Ernest of Pardubice (1300-1364), the first Archbishop of Prague; and Antonin Podlaha's edition of a 1509 manuscript, a dialogue on the Immaculate Conception written by the Franciscan Jan Vodňanski. Among the great prizes rescued, so to say, from behind the Iron Curtain, was an immense tome, Filippo Picinelli's (b. 1604) Mundus Symbolicus [Praz 455]. It is an important emblem book as dic-

tionary, written specifically for preachers. The first edition, of 1653, was in Italian. The Latin version, which appeared in 1681, saw several printings, the last one in 1719. Our copy bears the date 1715. From Bratislava comes our earliest Hungarian work, a two-volume set of Marian sermons by the Franciscan Josef Telek, Tizen-két Tsillagú Korona, printed at Buda in 1769. The frontispiece engraved by Philip Binder pictures Our Lady of the Snows at Szeged.

VIENNA provided a good number of 18th-century sermon collections. The largest of these is the Concionator ordinarius, printed at Augsburg in 1724, the work of the Benedictine of Ottobeuron, Sebastian Textor (d. 1722), who was much esteemed as a preacher. It was also in Vienna that Brother found our third 16th-century printing of Martin Luther, the Hauspostille done at Augsburg in 1572. The book contains 10 sermons, each preceded by a large woodcut illustration. The sermon on the Annunciation comments on Mary's faith and the joy she experienced in knowing that the son she was to bear would be the Savior of the world. Many more books deserve to be mentioned here, but these few capsule sketches must suffice to show what a variety of new materials is available for study here at the Marian Library.

FATHER CHARLES BALIČ, President of the International Pontifical Marian Academy, received the new Marian Library Medal on August 11, during the splendid banquet that closed the Sixth International Mariological Congress in Zagreb. In bestowing the medal and with it a modest purse in the name of the President of the University of Dayton, we acknowledged the gratitude owed to this scholar who has "helped us all to honor and to know ... the Mother of God." In our citation we referred to the image of the Tree of Life found on the reverse of the medal, an image that "also symbolizes with its seven leaves the mystical Tree of Jesse, whose roots God put into our earth, created and saved by His love." We concluded with the hope that this Tree of Life would become a sign of Father Balič's life, past, present, and future with the blessing of God. The text of the citation was beautifully hand-lettered by Bro. Gordon Richardson, S.M., a member of the fine arts department here at the University. Father Balič was deeply touched by these marks of esteem.

THE NEW UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON LIBRARY was dedicated on the afternoon of September 25, 1971. Present for the occasion were Archbishop Paul Leibold of Cincinnati, who had blessed the building earlier in the day; the Hon. John Gilligan, Governor of Ohio; and Mr. Rutherford D. Rogers, Director of Libraries at Yale. All three received honorary degrees from the University. Mr. Rogers delivered an excellent address on the future course of libraries.

For this event we assembled an exhibit to illustrate the history of the Marian Library and to display some of the unusual items in our holdings. One exhibit case contained a selection of letters. Among them were the first public announcement of the establishment of the Marian Library (a form letter sent to American publishers); the first answer to that letter, sent by Bruce of Milwaukee; an acknowledgement by Msgr. J. B. Montini (now Paul VI) that Pius XII had received a copy of the Marian Library Booklist sent to him as a jubilee gift; Bishop Fulton J. Sheen's acceptance of the first Marian Library Medal for his book The World's First Love. A second case included pictures of library personnel, past and present, copies of our various publications, and programs of institutes and lectures sponsored by the library. A large upright case displayed a selection of engravings from our slowly growing art collection, some fine gold-tooled bindings, sample pages from our Marian stamp albums, and several medals. Among the rare books shown were a late 15th-century manuscript, an apparently unique copy of a Venetian incunabulum, an early Dutch Book of Hours, and an emblem book.


We also included four of the books that had won the original Marian Library Medal, together with copies of their foreign-language translations.

BRO. BENITO MORAL, S.M., one of our most devoted collaborators, died in Madrid on January 1, 1972. For over 20 years, the Marian Library depended on Bro. Moral for the acquisition of its Spanish materials. Besides sending us many currently published works, he ferretted out hundreds of old volumes from bookstores all over Spain. It is largely through his efforts that the Library has acquired its strong collection of Spanish literature from the 17th and 18th centuries. Bro. Moral himself wrote several popular books on the Blessed Virgin, intended primarily for high school students: Para ti, O Muchacho; He aqui, a tu Madre; Almas marianas; and its sequel Mas almas marianas. Of the 72 years allotted to him, he spent 53 as a dedicated member of the Society of Mary. God grant him the reward of his labors.

THE MARIAN LIBRARY NEEDS HELP from interested friends so that it may both increase its resources in those areas where it already has some strength and also find its way to new fields of research. We greatly appreciate the continued assistance of Father Herbert Kramer of San Antonio, who frequently sends us both small clippings and lengthy articles of Marian import from newspapers and other periodicals that we would otherwise have no way of acquiring. We encourage our readers to send us such items for our clipping file: doctrinal and devotional articles, news about shrines, critiques of Marian art, poems, prayers, pictures, sermons, even anti-Mariana, from any source whatever, in any language whatsoever. Not long ago a Marianist missionary in Nairobi sent us a four-column article on the Legio Maria Church of Africa. It is the most extensive material we have yet received on this sect, established about 10 years ago. Recently our seminarians in St. Louis agreed to help us by xeroxing articles from scholarly journals that we have been seeking for a long time. We would appreciate some financial help in subsidizing this project, which will assume rather large proportions. About a month ago, one of our Belgian confreres, Bro. Alphonse Steichen, sent us a packet of Marian stamps. He is well known for his tireless work in this field and for the help he has given to the Church's missions through this activity. We should mention that Bro. Nicholas Wagner here in Dayton is continuing his own work in augmenting our philatelic collection. Another Belgian Marianist, Bro. Victor Bombled, introduced us to something entirely new. He collects examples of the Marian seals and other such insignia that are found on the official papers of Belgian municipalities. This is only one aspect of Marian heraldry, a vast territory that has not yet been studied by anyone and on which our library has absolutely nothing. Our special gratitude to those members of the Society of Mary who have designated that the annual usufruct from their property be given to the Marian Library. This money will be of considerable help to us at a time when our budgeted funds have been much reduced. We thank in particular also the Committee on Marianist Contributed Services here at the University. The members of this committee have made available to us a sum which will make possible the publication in Marian Library Studies of a very important dissertation on Greek Marian homiletics of the fifth century. The work will effect a complete renewal in many areas of Patristic study.

To keep this NEWSLETTER from becoming too long we had to omit our résumé of the Zagreb Congress. We will include it in the next issue along with further news about new acquisitions, gifts received, exhibits, projects under way, etc.

Sincerely in Our Lady,


Rev. Théodore Koehler, S.M.
Director, Marian Library